

CLAIMS

1. Sorbent material comprising a fibrous material combined with an oleophilic coating and/or with a hydrophilic particulate material.
- 5 2. Sorbent material according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the fibrous material comprises mineral fibres of the fibreglass or rock fibre type, or cellulosic fibres.
3. Sorbent material according to Claim 2,
10 **characterized in that** the fibres are bound or unbound, in bulk.
4. Sorbent material according to one of Claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the oleophilic coating predominantly comprises, in particular essentially,
15 silicone(s).
5. Sorbent material according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the said coating is provided in a quantity of about 0.01 to about 1.0%, in particular from 0.05 to 0.5% by weight
20 of silicone(s) relative to the weight of the fibres.
6. Sorbent material according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the said coating comprises, in addition, at least one agent for removing dust, in particular in the form of oil(s).
- 25 7. Sorbent material according to Claim 6, **characterized in that** the coating comprises from 1.0% to 3.0% of oil(s).
8. Sorbent material according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** it is provided
30 with an oleophilic coating, **in that** it is capable of absorbing at least from 15 to 50 times its weight of oils or hydrocarbons which have in particular a viscosity of between 8000 and 15,000 centipoises **and in that** it has a high floatability with respect to water.
- 35 9. Method of manufacturing a sorbent material according to one of the preceding claims **characterized in that** a quantity of fibrous material, in particular unbound, is selected, **and in that** it is at least partially coated with an oleophilic coating

predominantly comprising, in particular essentially, silicone(s).

10. Method according to Claim 9, **characterized in that** the fibrous material is based on mineral
5 fibreglass or rock fibres **and in that** there is sprayed onto the said fibres an emulsion containing the silicone(s) under the devices for manufacturing the said fibres, in particular under the centrifugation plates, before they are assembled.

10 11. Process according to Claim 9 or Claim 10, **characterized in that** an emulsion containing the silicone(s) is sprayed onto the fibrous material already in the form of a cushion.

12. Application of the sorbent material combined
15 with an oleophilic coating according to one of Claims 1 to 8 or obtained according to the method in accordance with one of Claims 9 to 11 to the depollution of stretches of water with oils/hydrocarbons, as filtration material, or for absorbing used engine
20 oils/hydrocarbons for vehicles.

13. Sorbent material according to one of Claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the quantity of hydrophilic particulate material is about 5 per cent by weight to about 20 per cent by weight, relative to the weight of
25 the fibrous material.

14. Sorbent material according to one of Claims 1 to 3 or according to Claim 13, **characterized in that** the hydrophilic particulate material is chosen from the group consisting of modified starches, acrylic polymers
30 with high molecular weight having hydrophilic groups, a crosslinked polyacrylamide, a crosslinked sulphonated polystyrene, crosslinked polyacrylates, crosslinked polymethacrylates, crosslinked copolymers of acrylates and of methacrylates, and mixtures thereof.

35 15. Sorbent material according to one of Claims 1 to 3 or either of Claims 13 and 14, **characterized in that** the mean particle size of the particulate material is between 50 and 3000 micrometres, in particular between 75 and 1500 micrometres.

16. Sorbent material according to one of Claims 13 to 15, *characterized in that* it is capable of absorbing at least between 10 and 20 times its weight of water if it uses an inbound fibrous material, and at least
5 between 20 and 40 times its weight of water if it uses a bound fibrous material.

17. Method of manufacturing a sorbent material according to one of Claims 1 to 3 or according to one of Claims 13 to 16, *characterized in that* a quantity of
10 fibrous material and a quantity of particulate material are selected, *and in that* a homogeneous dispersion of the particulate material in the fibrous material is obtained by mechanical stirring.

18. Method of manufacturing a sorbent material according to one of Claims 1 to 3 or according to one of Claims 13 to 16, *characterized in that* the
15 particulate material is introduced in the form of a colloidal suspension into the fibrous material.

19. Application of the sorbent material combined
20 with a hydrophilic particulate material according to one of Claims 1 to 3 or 13 to 16 or obtained according to the method in accordance with Claim 17 or Claim 18 to the absorption of organic solvents of the trichloroethylene type or to the absorption of pollutants
25 soluble in water such as paint, cooling liquid and industrial effluents.